

Support our Soldiers is an organization of veterans and civilians dedicated to supporting the thousands of servicemen and women who are organizing in the military. GI's are building a movement against the war in Indochina, against political repression at home, and against the dehumanization and brutality they face everyday in the service.

It is a movement of political activity and resistance ranging from peaceful sit-down strikes against the war to violent uprisings in stockade and bases. From political discussion groups to armed self-defense. From refusal to fight in Vietnam to refusal of riot duty in the U.S. It is a movement that exists wherever there are GI's, from Vietnam to Germany, from San Diego to New Hampshire.

The backbone of the GI movement is the more than 100 GI written and edited underground newspapers, and the over 35 organizing projects (coffeehouses, bookstores, movement centers, etc.) These papers and projects ~~exist~~ exist at Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force bases ~~around the world~~. They serve the needs, and relate to the lives, of servicemen, servicewomen, and the families and dependants of GI's throughout the world.

The projects are usually staffed by civilians and veterans who work closely with the active duty GI's who do the actual organizing. The projects provide the critical facilities- ~~space~~ ^{space}, equipment, money, educational programs, continuity, political support, ~~and communication with the civilian movement-~~ ^{LEGAL INFORMATION} the the GI's must have to continue their work on base.

~~Without~~ ~~support~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~broad~~ ~~civilian~~ ~~community~~ ~~the~~ ~~projects~~ ~~and~~ ~~papers~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~GI~~ ~~movement~~ ~~is~~ ~~vital~~. Without **SUPPORT** from the broad civilian community ~~the~~ ~~projects~~ ~~and~~ ~~papers~~ Without financial support the projects and papers can not survive. Without political support GI's have little chance of affecting the military monster. Without **SUPPORT FROM** the civilian community GI resisters will be railroaded into ~~the~~ ~~prison~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~system~~ ~~of~~ ~~"Military~~ ~~Justice"~~. ^{SO CALLED}

Support our soldiers exists as a link between the GI's and you. We desperately need your help; in raising money, in supporting the GI's politically, and in defending GI victims of "military justice".

The potential of a resistance movement built and led by GI's is immense. For the ~~anti-war~~ anti-war movement GI resistance offers an opportunity to materially affect the imperialist wars which are massacring the peoples of Asia. For the broader movement for social change, GI's represent a major breakthrough in reaching out to and involving white working class, as well as Third World peoples. The growing rebellion among the troops is a major blow to the Nixon strategy of repression through armed force. The self-determined movement of GI'S may be one of the most important political developments ~~in~~ America today.

[Undated, possibly 1971]

SOS NEWS

SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS
P.O. BOX 3061
OAKLAND, CAL. 94609
548-2934

CORAL SEA

During sea trials in September, the men of the Coral Sea, a US aircraft carrier, began circulating a petition to express their opposition to the war in Vietnam. That petition was confiscated, but the men started another circulated among the men and their families. The petition reads:

"In our opinion there is a silent majority aboard ship which does not believe in the present conflict in Vietnam. It is also the opinion of many that there is nothing we can do about putting an end to the Vietnam conflict. That because we are in the military we no longer have a right to voice our individual opinions concerning the Vietnam war. This is where we feel that the majority of the Coral Sea has been fooled by military propoganda...The Coral Sea is scheduled for Vietnam in

November. This does not have to be a fact. The ship can be prevented from taking an active part in the conflict if we the majority voice our opinion that we don't believe in the Vietnam war. If you feel that the Coral Sea should not go to Vietnam, voice your opinion by signing this petition."

So far about 2000 signatures have been collected solely from the men of the Coral Sea and their families. On October 10th an all night vigil was held outside the gates of the Alameda Naval Air Station just prior to the sailing of the Coral Sea for more sea trials. The men will continue to oppose the sending of the Coral Sea to Vietnam on November 12th and will need civilian support as this date approaches. For information on the Coral Sea call Up Against the Bulkhead at 415-647-4750.



FT HOOD

The Fort Hood United Front in Killeen Texas has been very active lately. During September, the FTA show with Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland appeared there, the campaign to free Harvey and Priest gained momentum with a rally and picnic on Sept. 12, and the boycott of Tyrell's continues, with the latest news being that the management of the store wants to negotiate with the GI movement nationwide. We feel that it is appropriate to print the Ft. Hood United Front Policy Statement from the Fatigue Press:

The Fort Hood United Front is an organization composed of GIs, dependents, and concerned civilians. Although we are justly concerned with the military, and its direct effect on us as citizens, we are also part of the military-civilian community. The acts of oppression, injustice and violations of personal rights that occur within the community are just as much our concern as any illegal war or military operation.

The primary purpose of the Front is naturally to serve the people. We can see from past experience that the only way change within the military and the community

comes about is by concentrated effort by those people who are most affected by the unjust conditions. Certainly the military and economic ruling class never have made a move to change these oppressive conditions until the people, rising up to meet the issue, gave them no other alternative.

We are also concerned with a representative government that is not representative. Questions like, "If 70% of the American population want out of Vietnam now, why are we still involved?" become critical issues. Nixon has said that he does not want to become the first president to lose an army, and a nation.

If we are to live a democratic state, if we are to see the time when equality and justice are enjoyed by all citizens of this nation, then we must move to meet the crisis. By forming the Front, we hope to provide a means for the people to tackle such issues as Racism, Oppression, Unethical businesses, the War, and any other issue, major or minor that stands in the way of a free society. Black, Brown, Red and White, we are victims of social imbalance, we are also the only ones who have the power to change the conditions and see justice for all in our lifetime. Our power lies in unity.



PROJECT REPORTS

The Forum is the name of a new underground GI paper started by the GIs at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The newly formed organization also sponsored a peace rally in August, and are arranging for David Dellinger to speak there sometime this month. The speech by Dellinger will kick off a whole program of speakers at Fort Sill.

At Fort Gordon Georgia, there is a paper called the Last Harass. The staff of the paper is sponsoring a peace vigil every Saturday morning outside the gates of the fort. The participants in the vigils are all active duty personnel and their families who run the rick of major harrassment as a result of their participation. The Fort Gordon GIs are working on a series of local rock concerts that will provide an opportunity for Fort Gordon GIs to meet the people in the local community.

In San Diego, a new newspaper called Up From The Bottom has come out. The staff there has been working on the boycott of the local Tyrell's jewelers, as well as of other local businesses that prey on GIs with "easy payment plans" and bad merchandise. The local GIs are also actively supporting the farmworker's lettuce boycott.



IWAKUNI FESTIVAL

During August, the GIs at Iwakuni held a rock festival with the Japanese movement people from that area. The festival took place at Kintai Park, also known as People's Park, near Tokyo.

A spontaneous demonstration came out of the festival when a crowd of Japanese civilians and American GIs marched to the main gates of the base, backing up traffic for miles.

Further events scheduled for this fall in Iwakuni include a rock festival in October and folk festivals in November and December. There was such good response to the first event, that the people there feel that these festivals will be of major importance in breaking down the barriers between GIs and Japanese, breaking down the isolation that keeps GIs apart, and building a sense of solidarity necessary for continuing political action. The staff in Iwakuni is hoping to open a coffeehouse to provide a further alternative meeting place for GIs.

COLLAPSING ARMY

The US Army in Vietnam is "in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers, and NCO's drug-ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous." This statement is part of an article by Col. Robert Heintz Jr., a dedicated lifer writing in the Armed Forces Journal.

Combat refusal, which Heintz considers "the soldiers gravest crime" has become so commonplace in Vietnam that separate companies have been set up for men who refuse to engage the "enemy". "As early as 1969, an entire company of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade publically sat down on the battlefield. Later that year another rifle company, from the famed 1st Air Cavalry Division, flatly refused--on CBS TV--to advance down a dangerous trail."

Some of the most panic stricken passages from Heintz's article deal with fraggings. The Pentagon admits to 209 fragging incidents in 1970, more than twice the toll for the previous year. Heintz reports that in the Americal Division alone, fraggings are running at the rate of about one a week. Far from being the evil doing of a few malcontents, news of fraggings "will bring cheers at troop movies or in bivouacs of certain units."

The desertion statistics quoted by Heintz are incredibly high and rising. Officially there were 65,643 deserters from the Army alone in 1970. Re-enlistments have hit rock bottom despite the lack of jobs for vets in the domestic economy.

Rebellion in the ranks is bad enough, but he also is paranoid about "sedition...externally fomented with an audacity and intensity previously inconceivable." The Colonel looks with horror at the growing movement of GIs organizing through coffeehouses, newspapers, etc. He counts 144 GI newspapers up 40% in the last nine months.

According to Col. Heintz, the way to remedy this situation is to crush all resistance whenever and where ever it arises. The higher ups are fighting among themselves over the best way to turn back the clock. Their goal is the same as Heintz's, to produce an army that can be pointed in any direction, Chicago, Vietnam, or Guatemala, and respond to the command to kill.



BILLY SMITH

On September 12th a rally for Billy Smith was held at Fort Ord. About 300 people were present to demonstrate their support for the railroaded GI. Many GI's were prevented from attending the rally because the brass restricted most of the base the afternoon of the rally. The week before a support rally took place on base. A speaker from the Black Panther Party, several GI's, and members of Billy's family pointed out the lack of evidence in the case and the racist nature of singling out Billy for the murders. After the speeches, the civilians and GI's militantly marched to the main gate to demand justice for the black GI. We urge you to write or send telegrams to the Commanding General of Ft. Ord demanding an end to the illegal proceedings. FREE BILLY SMITH!

VA MISTREATMENT

The Veteran's Administration hospital in Menlo Park, supposedly a mental hospital, is in many ways run more like a prison camp than a hospital.

In Ward A-7 this is not a matter of isolated incidents but a regular pattern. Vets who demand their rights are threatened with being transferred to this "maximum security" ward. Juan Valdez, a vet now in ward C-1, said: "I was beaten until I fell down when I stumbled into the wrong room because I was heavily sedated. I have seen patients held and beaten by nursing assistants in A-7." Another vet in C-1, Huey Wright, reported that: "Some patients are beaten or roughed up if they don't take their medication." Vets have been warned not to write their Congressmen about the conditions at the hospital. One patient

was told that he would be "railroaded" out of the hospital and lose his benefits if he continues to protest his maltreatment. Meetings with news reporters are not allowed on hospital grounds without a staff member present.

Privileges, such as weekend passes and yard time away from the ward when individuals commit trivial offenses, such as dropping ashes on the floor or having a sloppy room.

Geraldine MacKinnon, a nurse at the hospital, resigned urging a Congressional investigation of the conditions there. The hospital administration has tried to discredit her by questioning her conduct as a nurse. But these efforts were exposed by a Dr. Gertrude Erickson, a staff psychiatrist, by Ann Mishouhoff, a nurse and the hospital chaplains, all of whom praised her work. Also many patients have signed a petition protesting the kangaroo court tactics of the administration.

The Vets at the hospital are starting to organize and fight back. They are being forced to meet off the hospital grounds. One Vet summed it up: "Be assured that if a Vet wanted to live a life of that kind of treatment, he would have re-enlisted. It's a very successful way of discouraging vets from collecting on their benefits."



SOS Activities

During the month of September, SOS did three film showings on the University of California campus.

SOS has also been making plans for a poetry reading in the near future.

SOS will be participating in the Marin County rally for the Heroes of War Resistance.

SOS staff members have also been participating in the Stop Our Ship campaign of the crew members of the Coral Sea.

BLUE CHIPS

Our appeal for Blue Chip stamps was very well responded to. We are asking once again that you send any loose stamps or books of stamps that you have. They help us obtain office equipment and other things needed by our own office and by projects.

NEW GI PAPERS

THE KNOT
Box 1361
Minot, North Dakota
(Minot AFB)

GETTING TOGETHER
Box 31016
Aurora, Colo. 80010
(Lowry AFB)

AT EASE
2235 Hartranft St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

EMERGENCY

Support Our Soldiers has been operating for several years as an organization that provides funds, literature, films, and any other kind of support that we are asked for and can deliver to GI anti-war projects around the world. For many months, we have been sending support such as this to about forty projects. Some of these were run entirely by active duty GIs, and some were run with the help of civilian support staff who provided continuity and who were able to help raise some of the funds necessary to carry on the political work locally.

Now we at SOS are in a crisis. With every issue of SOS News, we have been telling you about new papers and activity on bases where no activity had ever been seen before. News of projects in Oklahoma, Georgia, Louisiana, North Dakota, Idaho, and other states considered part of the heartland of American conservatism come into our office daily. These newly formed projects desperately need money if they are to survive. The vast majority of them have started in places where there is no civilian staff to help raise the money.

Please, do what you can to help us fund these projects. The papers they publish in many cases are the only contact that isolated GIs have with the growing sentiment for change in America.



SOS REPORT

Early this year SOS set up the following priorities for funding:

1. To fund political action that USSF can't. This includes funding for demonstration and bail money.
2. Money for emergency and/or extraordinary expenses, such as equipment and films.
3. Money for recurring day to day expenses.

Other areas in which we decided we should work were recruitment of staff, security checks, and literature mailing. We try as much as possible to keep the politics of projects out of the decision making process regarding funding. Or in other words, we do not try to control project's politics through funds. SOS also saw the creation of an understanding among civilians about the GI movement as part of our work.

The major efforts by SOS in fundraising in 1971 have been: 3 cocktail parties, a dress sale, our monthly newsletter, and several smaller activities (a pancake breakfast, community fair and 2 garage sales) Of these, the first 2 cocktail parties raised the bulk of SOS's income for the year.

However, the income from the cocktail parties declined markedly, the last one being a bust, it made no money at all. Also our relationship with this small group of liberals was manipulative and opportunistic which alienated the SOS staff from this aspect of our work. And thirdly, we felt that our contact with the broad civilian community (students, workers and intellectuals) was inadequate.

Limited almost solely to the aforementioned group of liberal supporters. Given these 3 factors (ie declining income from major fundraising efforts, our opportunistic political practice and our isolation from the community) we decided to redirect our efforts to relate to general community to better inform them of the GI movement, seek their support etc. We put on several film showings set up literature tables outside of local supermarkets, speaking to political organizations in our area etc. We have continued to publish and distribute our monthly newsletter which brings in about \$200 per month. A rock concert scheduled for Dec. 11 is projected to bring in approximately \$1000. The general trend has been that our income has fallen and our contact with the civilian population has improved.

SOS has prepared a chart of how funds were spent in 1970, 1971. Briefly, about 1/3 of all funds were spent internally, ie office rent staff fundraising etc in 1970 and 2/3 was sent projects directly or indirectly in the form of literature films etc. In 1971 the percentages were the same but the total funds raised were higher.

Basically we met funding requests on the basis of whether there was money in the bank and did not follow the priorities that we outlined for ourselves. This meant that there was never much money set aside to meet an emergency first priority request. Other funds such as bail were never readily available and probably can never be kept on hand. We see them as raised by telephone when needed.

The table breaks down the expenditure to each project under direct payments to projects. It should be mentioned that the literature and services expenditures were spread over about 25 projects.

In our opinion we did a poor job of helping to recruit staff. Beyond writing an article for Vocations for Social Change and short pamphlet dealing with working in the GI movement, we did almost nothing. We failed to do any outreach work to contact or encourage people to work with the GI movement. Our handling of security checks was almost non-existent. We still are at a loss as to how to go beyond the barest minimum sort of check, and we have been lax in doing even that.

One of the things that we did take care of fairly well, we think, was the sending of literature to projects. And in trying to handle requests from projects. Because our time priority was funding we did not spend as much time on this as we could have and should have. However, given our priorities we think that we spent our time well in this area.

As for other services, some we did well, such as getting material printed, helping Stop Our Ship movement, etc. Others we did not do too well on, such as helping out with the Tyrell's boycott (1 picket line) We think that services such as these should have a higher priority on our time than they did have. We believe that we have done a good job of bringing the GI movement to the consciousness of local anti-war organizations, radical/revolutionary groups and some liberal organizations. However, except for trying to make sure that these groups included the GI movement in their newspapers, activities and demonstrations, we have done almost nothing to reach the masses of people about GI resistance. Nor have we attempted to reach organizations and groups outside of N. Calif. We feel that this has been a serious failure. We should have a program to educate civilians about what is happening in the military service. While our contact with local groups has been good, this is not enough. The 4 of us who do most of the SOS work have a good working relationship and feel pretty good about working with each other. This has been important because all of us have to work at jobs almost full time and we have only a limited

amount of energy available to SOS. The fact that ~~the~~ only a small amount of this energy had to be spent on internal hassels has been a great help. There is, however, still a great need to recruit more people to SOS.

To sum up, we believe that over the last 6 months we have done a poor job of raising large amounts of money and we don't think that we can function well in that area. Because most of our time has been spent on fruitless efforts to raise money other work that we should have been doing has suffered. We feel that in the future we should concentrate on services and programs such as the ones discussed below, & rather than on trying to raise big money. This feeling is partly based on the assumption that in the foreseeable future, ~~HEEK~~ USSF will be able to raise very much greater amounts of money than we could ever hope to, and that they will continue to see financial support of the projects and papers as their major priority.

FUTURE PLANS

In the evaluation of our activities we discussed how well we think we've done certain jobs. We would like criticism from ~~the~~ conference with an emphasis on what jobs we should be devoting more of our energies to in the coming year, and the ways in which decisions making could be improved.

Our ideas about what SOS should be doing in the coming year are as follows.

- 1- We should try to raise enough money to cover those project needs that USSF can't fund due to their legal restriction as a non-profit organization. That is, we will try; to supply money for explicitly political needs that USSF can't touch.
- 2- Continue and expand literature/poster service to projects. Do research as requested. Help print literature such as "Ask a Marice". ~~BUTTONS, STICKERS,~~
- 3- Assist the political programs of projects such as the Tyrells boycott, Billy Smith Defense, STop Our ~~...~~ etc. Also things like contacting ~~...~~ which requested to do so.
- 4- Try to help maintain communications among the projects and papers, especially the projects in Asia. ~~XEROX, NAVY, 10 DAY,~~
- 5- Spend greatly increased time in informin; the civilian community about the GI movement. First by constant contact with local and distant organizations and second by mass work, especiaaly through the underground media and if possible the straight media.
- 6- Make a real effort to recruit staff as needed by projects, and to try to figure out and implement some sort of security check that is effective.
- 7- Help projects set up their own fund raising.

Media Network
In addition to these ideas about what SOS program should be we have two other things that we think the conference should discuss. The first grows out of our the fact that we feel it is necessary for the projects and papers to have a voice in setting policy for the support groups. A greater influence then can be wielded at yearly conferences. ~~Decisions~~ Decisions as to what are funding priorities, what political developments within the GI movement should be emphasized, where new energies should go, what the role of civilian enterprises (such as the FTA show) should be, etc. All of these and other questions are ones that we think should not be decided by support groups alone. We think that everyone realises this, but we have discovered, that in practice, letters, phone calls, and conversations with project people who happen to be in town are inadequate.

We think that there should be some sort of structure set up to provide an ongoing project voice in the policy of support groups. One idea that we have talked about is setting up regional (Southern, New England, S. Calif. etc) bodies composed of one or more members from each project and paper that would meet together once a month or so. One of the functions of these bodies would be to maintain liason with the support groups. More importantly they would serve to increase pommunications between projects, would lead to the development of co-ordinated multi-project activities, would provide a means to share experiences and problems etc.

These regional bodies would not have to have a rigid or ponderouse structure, rather they would be monthly comings together of one or more people from each project or paper within a comfortable travelling distance for a week-end of discussion. Problems of each project and support office could be raised and if necessary brough back to the projects.

Historically liberal support tends to fall off as a movement becomes more militant and revolutionary. Much of the liberal money that has sustained us in the past will be diverted to electing "peace" candidates during next years elections. Coupled with a declining economy this means that we will not be able to count on liberal money for much longer, especially as our movement moves away from pacifism. We think that the conference should discuss ways that projects can begin to supply an increasing amount of thier financial needs on their own. ~~We believe that in the future~~

SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS

REPORT

1500.38
454.67
1955.05

503.15
~~454.67~~
1757.82

303.15
1874.55
1150
3347.70

	A/B OFFICE	B LIT. & SERVICE	SOS UTIL. A & RENT	C FINANCIAL DIRECT TO PROJ	REPORT STAFF	REPAY LOANS	MISC.
1970 Totals	303.15	1894.55	1500.38	2210.49	454.67	487.60	conf. 1150.
1971							
JAN	75.00		24.34				288.13 fundraising
FEB			25.00				335.00 fundraising
MARCH	68.00	558.12	76.70	1264.18	264.10	150.00	81885 MI
APRIL	110.32	559.96	70.66	1833.50	200.00	87.00	257.17 fundraising
MAY	114.00	229.91		1760.75	116.60		291.66 MI
JUNE	65.40	197.93	190.60	1425.00	329.25		122.30 fundraising
JULY	94.71	202.89	210.50	769.70	205.00	90.00	125.00 fundraising
AUG	42.00	25.00	108.14	185.00	170.00		66.00 films
SEPT	33.22	100.00		150.00			films 33.00
OCT	33.10	50.00	29.97	100.00			25.00 fundraising
TOTALS	635.75	1923.81	736.11	7488.13	1285.55	317.00	

1970 Total spent on office 2745.80 and total sent to projects (direct & indirect) 5255.04
 1971 Total on office 3991.01 and total spent on projects (direct & indirect) ~~9795.45~~
 9795.45

Direct payments to projects 1970

Oleo Strut 1704.75 Shelter Half 115.74 Clarksville 450.00 Ord 375.00
 Pendelton 515.00 Okinawa 50.00

Direct payments to projects 1971

Strut 1200.00 Tacoma 225.00 Clarksville 1776.10 Pendelton 435.00 Ord 95.00
 Home Front 410.00 San Diego 375.93 FTA 75.00 Anniston 205.25 San Bern. 545.00
 Great Lakes 300.00 Ft. Bliss 158.00 CAMP 225.00 Voice of the Lumpen 300.25
 Pstemkin 350.00 The Next Step 100.00 Travis AFB 804.00 Up Against the Bulkhead 100.00
 Heidelberg Lib. Front 50.00 and unspecified checks 675.25

	EXPENSES	SERVICES	GRANTS	income	loan
	\$ 1955.05	3347.70	2210.49		487.60
1970	2106.62	3176.03	2210.49	8000	
1971	3664.159	2241.68	7488.13		

71? 72?
73?



Support Our Soldiers

P.O. BOX 24942
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90024
Telephone (213) 399-8697

Comrades,

Here's the very first letter from all of us to all of you.

A more detailed report about SOS-Los Angeles will be coming out in the USSF Bulletin, so this is just to officially say we're here and to keep you posted on what we've been doing, what we hope to do in the next month or so.

We see the general function of LA SOS as pretty similar to the kinds of things that went on in Bay Area SOS over the past year. We expect to do fund-raising as a main area of work, and see ourselves as a place y'all can go to for expenses that the USSF stipends can't cover. We don't expect to handle nearly as much money as USSF, but figure we can provide a significant secondary money source for occasional or "emergency" needs.

We'll be doing some literature, posters, buttons and such, but Bay Area SOS has that cut out as a major area of work. So we'll probably restrict ourselves to something like occasional mailings of stuff available around here, and helping the comrades in the bay area answer specific requests

We will work on recruiting staff--but no promises.

The other major area of work we see cut out for ourselves is some kind of regional work with the projects in our area. That's pretty much undefined, something we've only begun to talk about with folks in these parts.

Since we've only been in town about 7 weeks, we're still in the process of establishing ourselves, getting ourselves known, and setting things up so we can have some credibility when we really start asking people for money. We've met with a lot of people and done a couple small radio things to get ourselves better known.

We just sent out our first fund-raising letter (to a really small list) and we'll be doing a newsletter soon. So far our fund-raising ideas are limited to things like that, since we don't yet have the contacts or the apparatus (?) to do benefits or parties. Hope that will happen soon.

Realistically, it looks like we'll be able to help folks out with money some time around the end of January or beginning of February. We can probably raise a little money if emergencies come up before then, although we don't have any money in the bank right now. So if y'all need money, let us know, and we'll see if we can find it somewhere. If there are other things folks would like us to do, just let us know, and we'll do what we can.

A few things we'd like from y'all!: letters and such, and copies of papers. We can really use papers in introducing ourselves, speaking to groups, and trying to find new staff people. And news about what you are doing would help us a lot--we know plenty about what's going on at a few projects, and almost nothing about a few others. So please keep in touch if you can.

You probably noticed the enclosed stuff on Billy Smith. We visited their office a few weeks ago. They would like information about frugging (frequency, penalties, reasons, etc.) They'd also like copies of articles or leaflets or anything folks do about Billy Smith. We'll be giving them your address so they can send questions directly. If anybody wants some of their buttons, let us know and we'll get them. The defense committee address is on the leaflet--if you want more stuff on the case either write them or let us know. We'll try to handle any expenses.

At the conference, there was a lot of talk about staff for Cambridge. We'd like to remind folks of the commitment made at the conference about that problem. They do still need folks.

Guess that's enough for now. Hope to be hearing from y'all soon.

Power,

Terry & Kathy

Love

A DECENT SIZED LETTER SOON,

HERE'S OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER--LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOUR NEWSLETTER. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GERRY & LESTER & KAY, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY OVERLAP ON OUR MAILING LISTS, SO I HOPE IT DOESN'T HURT TO USE THE SAME FORMAT. ALSO OUR FIRST LETTER TO PROJECTS, SAYING HOW WE ARE AND WHAT WE'RE DOING. I GUESS BETWEEN THEM IT GIVES A FAIRLY DECENT PICTURE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING. SEEING ALL OF YOU WAS GREAT. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO COME VISIT US. PLEASE LET US KNOW, BY THE WAY, HOW YOU'RE DOING AND HOW THE GRANT BUSINESS IS GOING.

H1, COMRADES,

SOS NEWS

SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS
P.O. Box 24942
Los Angeles, Cal. 90024

What Is SOS

A new office of Support Our Soldiers (SOS) is opening in Los Angeles.

SOS is a support office for the GI Movement. We bear the responsibility of raising money, providing literature and films, recruiting staff, maintaining communications and providing publicity for GI coffeehouses and projects.

When the first coffeehouses opened, it was relatively easy for a single support office to keep up with them--that office was Support Our Soldiers in San Francisco. The idea of a coffeehouse caught on fast, and the number of projects mushroomed. To help meet this situation, a new support office was opened, the United States Servicemen's Fund (USSF) in New York. With USSF, a tax-exempt organization, in the east, and SOS in San Francisco, a division of labor was created: SOS worked with projects in the west and USSF with those in the east. In addition, an SOS office opened in Los Angeles to work with projects in Southern Cal.

In the summer of 1970, this structure collapsed. All of the support offices ran out of money. USSF closed for several months. Both SOS offices remained opened, but could not begin to meet the mounting needs of projects. As a result, some projects were forced to close, a number of GI papers could not publish, and activity slumped.

In the fall of 1970, a new group of people reopened the USSF office; and in the winter of 1971, Bay Area SOS was revitalized by a new staff.

But as the number of projects continues to increase, the need for resources has become even greater. For this reason, a new SOS office is opening in Los Angeles.

All three support offices share the responsibility of meeting the needs of the GI Movement. The original division of labor (supporting the closest projects) has been replaced. Since USSF is tax-exempt, there are many legal limitations on their funds. They cannot cover political expenses, such as demonstrations, bail, speakers. Nor are they entirely free to cover subsistence for the people who staff GI projects. SOS must bear the primary responsibility for these expenses.

When SOS in Los Angeles ceased functioning, the Southern California projects became isolated from the support office network. As a result, they suffered more than many other projects from lack of resources. The new Los Angeles SOS office will also have the responsibility of providing resources for Southern California.



Billy Smith

Private Billy Dean Smith, a 21-year-old black GI from Watts, now in the stockade at Ft. Ord, Calif., facing the death penalty on charges of murder. Billy Smith, an outspoken opponent in Vietnam of the war and military racism, is charged with the "fragging"--murder by fragmentation grenade--of two officers.

With no evidence except his well-known political opposition to his commanding officer, the military has chosen to make an example of Billy Smith. There have been hundreds of fragging cases, but Billy Smith's is the first to be brought home to the states for trial.

The military authorities have devised many ways to eliminate trouble-makers. One frequently-used method is transport to the front lines--an informal death sentence. Billy Smith was taken from his unit on the murder charge. The brass hopes to go a step further and use his case to intimidate other activists.

Billy's guilt or innocence is irrelevant to the brass. The case against him consists of his anti-war and anti-military reputation, and the fact that he had a grenade pin in his possession when arrested. The pin does not match the grenade found at the scene. Neither of the officers killed was Billy's C.O. It is alleged that he killed them by mistake, and that his C.O. was the real target, with animosity between Billy and his C.O. as the motive behind the crime.

The case against Billy is transparent. What matters to the brass, and to the GI Movement, is that Billy is being used to show that it's not safe for GI's to openly oppose the war and racism in the military.

This kind of "legal" repression of GI activists is common, but this is the first time that a GI has officially been threatened with execution for his political beliefs.

It is crucial that the GI Movement defend Billy Smith. The case against him is a thinly veiled attack on the GI Movement. It is also important that the civilian community come to the support of Pvt. Billy Dean Smith. GI's cannot stand alone against the repressive apparatus of the military. Civilian support is a vital part of the political defense of the GI Movement.

You can show your support for Billy Smith and the GI Movement by writing to the Department of the Army, or by contacting the Billy Dean Smith Defense Committee, at 1619 E. 103rd St., Los Angeles, 566-3170.



**THIS COURT MARTIAL HAS FOUND
YOU GUILTY OF PREMEDITATED
HUMAN COMPASSION & OTHER
UNMILITARY & TREASONOUS
CRIMES!!**

Help!

SOS and the GI projects we work with are in desperate need of office equipment and supplies. If you have (or know of) typewriters, especially electric typewriters, paper supplies, other office equipment, projectors, filing cabinets, old cars, and almost anything else, please contact us.

Attack Carriers

The USS Constellation and the USS Coral Sea are attack carriers. Like the 13 other carriers in the US naval fleet, they carry crews of nearly 5,000 men, and serve as home bases for more than 80 air craft. Attack carriers are floating air bases, and provide an advance force at "tension points" around the world.

Attack carriers now constitute about half of the US air war over Indochina.

The Constellation Vote in late September, and the Stop Our Ship movement on the Coral Sea have sparked tremendous activity on aircraft carriers; and enthusiasm from the carriers is beginning to spread to other ships in the Pacific Fleet.

On the Constellation, minor sabotage is continually reported. Discontent is widespread, and meetings of anti-war sailors continue to take place on board the ship.

When the Coral Sea left the San Francisco Bay, the Navy announced that 37 sailors missed the ship's movement. However, it now seems certain that well over 200 sailors jumped ship. Meetings involving hundreds of sailors continue to take place on the ship, and the spirit of anti-war sailors seems high.

In early spring, another carrier will leave San Diego, bound for Southeast Asia. The USS Kittyhawk, and a large number of ships carrying supplies and ordnance, are scheduled to leave in early March.

Sailors on the Kittyhawk publish a paper called "Kitty Litter," and Stop Our Ship stickers have begun to appear on board. Sailors on other ships in the convoy have ex-

pressed interest in the movement. It now appears that a major campaign may take place around the Kittyhawk, and possibly other ships in the convoy.

Even the air war is vulnerable from within. These activities on attack carriers are an important example of new anger and activity by Navy and Air Force personnel. They are beginning to organize against the orders that ground troops have already refused to obey.

Bombing Protests

As we prepare the January issue of SOS NEWS, active duty airmen and women at four air force bases are planning coordinated activities to protest the recent bombings of North Vietnam.

At Travis AFB, California; Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Westover AFB, Mass.; and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio active-duty personnel are circulating a petition opposing the bombing. On January 8, rallies will be held at three of the bases, where results of the petition and plans for presenting it to the president and public will be announced.

An effort is being made to have ex-POWs and POW relatives speak at the rallies. The airmen and women want to expose the connection between renewed bombing and the president's disregard for POWs.

This coordinated action at air force bases is the first of its kind for the GI Movement, and indications are that it will be very successful. SOS will publicize results of the activities as more detailed information becomes available.

Killeen

The Oleo Strut Coffeehouse has stood on Avenue D in Killeen, Texas, for more than 3 years. GI's from nearby Ft. Hood use the coffeehouse as their off-base center, and it is the headquarters for their paper, the Fatigue Press.

In recent months, the Ft. Hood United Front, the GI organization, has been involved in a series of successful public events, ranging from Armed Forces Day demonstrations to the beginning of a nation-wide boycott of a jewelry store chain that specializes in the GI market.

On May 15, Armed Forces Day, they held an anti-war rally attended by nearly 1000 GI's. More than 15 GI's were arrested for "illegally" picketing Tyrrell's Jewelers. In August, a motorcade into town from a GI picnic was attacked by local police--there were 34 arrests. The picnic was a political event, part of a campaign to support GI activists held in the stockade. On Veterans Day, Oct. 25, over 100 GI's were arrested for parading without a permit, though they were legally marching on the sidewalk.

Their high level of activity has been rewarded with special attention and harrassment from civilian and military authorities. The result is that the Oleo Strut and the Ft. Hood United Front have more than 150 court cases pending--all phoney charges and nearly all involving GI's.

No other project has had quite the number of arrests faced by Ft. Hood, but all face the same problem. Projects are constantly open to threats and

harrassment, and successful activities can bring severe repression from government agencies.

SOS helps provide the resources that make such activities possible, and helps to publicize them as they take place, to ensure that GI's do not remain isolated. When necessary, SOS helps to provide bail and legal assistance against military repression.

GI Papers

In each issue, SOS NEWS presents the names and addresses of a few of the many papers put out by GI's. You can show your support for the GI movement, and learn more about the work it is doing, by subscribing to a GI paper.

USA

Travisty
P.O. Box 487
Suison City, Cal. 94585

Fatigue Press
P.O. Box 1265
Killeen, Texas 76541

Up From the Bottom
P.O. Box 7472
San Diego, Cal. 92107

ASIA

Semper Fi
Box 68, Chuo Post Office
Hiroshima, Japan

EUROPE

FTA With Pride
69 Heidelberg
Schiffgasse 3
West Germany



Travis

December 26, 18 GI's took over a drug rehabilitation ward in David Grant Hospital at Travis Air Force Base, California. Travis is a major transportation and supply center for Indochina, and the GI's had just returned from Vietnam.

There were two reasons for their actions. One was to protest the bombing of North Vietnam and to express solidarity with the veterans who occupied the Statue of Liberty. Eight of the GI's had joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War while still in Vietnam.

The other reason was to expose the military's drug-rehabilitation program. The "program" has two basic approaches. One is a lecture from the chaplain about the dangers of drug abuse; the other is simple imprisonment to ensure "cure." Actual treatment or serious concern is almost never offered. The GI's wanted to expose this hoax, and show that the military is doing nothing at all to help GI's seriously addicted to drugs.

The GI's drew up a list of 14 demands around these issues, and occupied the ward to gain publicity for the demands. The demands centered around isolation and confinement, the prison atmosphere of the hospital, the fact that officers and senior enlisted men are excused from the highly-publicized urine tests, inefficiency of the tests and resultant mistakes in diagnosis, and the lack of treatment available for those who do really need it.

The GI's have been shipped to military hospitals all around the country. Efforts are now being made to locate them and provide them with legal assistance and support.

The GI's have been shipped to military stockades all around the country. Efforts are now being made to locate them and provide them with legal assistance and support.

You Can Help

SOS needs help in introducing itself to the community, and in raising funds for the GI Movement. If you belong to an organization, or have a group of friends who would like to hear more about the GI Movement, please let us know.

If you would like to help us in distributing our brochure or this newsletter, we'd be happy to have your help.

And, if you have suggestions for fund-raising, or would like to help in that work--anything from garage sales to parties--please get in touch with us, at 399-8697, or P.O. Box 24942, LA 90024.

The success of our work depends on support from the civilian community. We need your help.



Project Reports

Each month, SOS NEWS will feature brief reports from GI projects in different regions of the country, and in Asia and Europe. This month, the project reports are from Southern California.

SAN DIEGO

The Enlisted People's Place is located in Ocean Beach, in San Diego. It houses a counseling office, and an office for the city-wide GI paper, Up From The Bottom. There's also a large room with a never-empty coffee pot, literature, and people to talk with. Every Sunday, there is a free film showing. The Place is a center for Marines from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot and for sailors stationed on ships in San Diego.

The Center for Servicemen's Rights is the second GI center in San Diego. Like the Place, it has a counseling office and an office for the paper. The Center works with sailors stationed at the 32nd Street Naval Station in San Diego.

Now, women from these two projects have opened a child care center in the military community around Ocean Beach. The day care center hopes to work with military "dependents" and their children.

ORANGE COUNTY

A house shared by several marines from El Toro Marine Corps Air Station is the home of Orange County Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM). The house is also the office of their paper, Pay Back. Since they exist on donations from small military pay checks, their programs are small and informal. They offer military counseling and political programs to marines from El Toro. Last month, they organized a car pool to attend the rally for Daniel Ellsberg in LA.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach MDM operates out of a store-front shared with civilian groups. They offer counseling and a free film program, and put out a paper called Out Now. They will soon move to a new office--closer to the strip in Long Beach where sailors from the 85 ships stationed there hang out.

SOS Activities

On January 14, SOS will do a benefit showing of two Charlie Chaplin films, "The Great Dictator" and "Modern Times." The films will be shown at 8:30 at the Long March, 715 S. Parkview, LA.

SOS is now working on a radio program on women and the military, to be aired over KPFK in late February. February's newsletter will carry the exact scheduling of the interview.

We would like to be able to speak to organizations, groups of friends and individuals about our work. If you would like to hear more about SOS and the GI Movement, give us a call at 399-8697, or write to SOS, Box 24942, LA 90024.



SOS NEWS

SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS
P.O. BOX 3061
OAKLAND, CAL. 94609
548-2934

CORAL SEA

The attack carrier, USS Coral Sea, left for Vietnam on November 12th. The enlisted men of the Coral Sea, under the banner of SOS, had waged a heroic struggle of historic importance. For the first time in the history of US imperialism, members of the armed forces, began to take an organized and politically conscious stand against their role as the agents of that imperialism. Those at the point of production of warfare had for the first time have seriously threatened to bring that production to a screeching halt.

On October 20th, the Coral Sea returned from its last sea trials before sailing for Vietnam. The crew was warmly greeted by hundreds of civilians at the gates of the Alameda Naval Air Station. On October 31st a picnic and rally was held for the crew and over 80 members of the crew attended. On November 6th, men of the Coral Sea lead the anti-war march in San Francisco and addressed the masses calling for an immediate end to the Indochina War and resolutely pledging to no longer participate in it. On November 8th several thousand civilians turned out to support the sailors' movement and to demonstrate their militant solidarity with their efforts to Stop Our Ship.

The movement has expanded to other ships, notably the USS Hancock and the USS Ranger. But the

sailors will not and cannot move without the militant support of us civilians. We must redouble our efforts, strengthened the ties between the people and the progressive elements in the armed forces, and strike blow after blow against all reactionary forces. We and other organizations will make every effort to keep you informed.



FT HOOD

On Veteran's Day, October 25th, the Fort Hood United Front sponsored a march in opposition to the Indochina war and in solidarity with the issues of freedom for Angela Davis, Pvts. Kelvin Harvey and John Priest, and all other political prisoners, and calling for an overall lowering of prices in Killeen.

A permit for this rally was denied by the Killeen City Council. The United Front considered this to be a violation of their right to assembly filed a suit in federal court against the city government. A decision by the court had not been made by the scheduled rally date and so the GI's proceeded with their plans.

The peaceful demonstration was stopped by the Killeen police and 125 participants were brutally arrested. A GI who was merely watching the demonstration was arrested for screaming "This looks like Nazi Germany!" But the Killeen jail couldn't hold them all and when the GI's threatened to go on a hunger strike the cops were forced to release them. At this time all those who were arrested are out of jail pending trial on charges of parading without a permit. The costs of legal defense will be high. We urge you to support the Fort Hood United Front. Send letters of support to the FT. Hood United Front, Box 1265, Killeen, Texas, 76541.



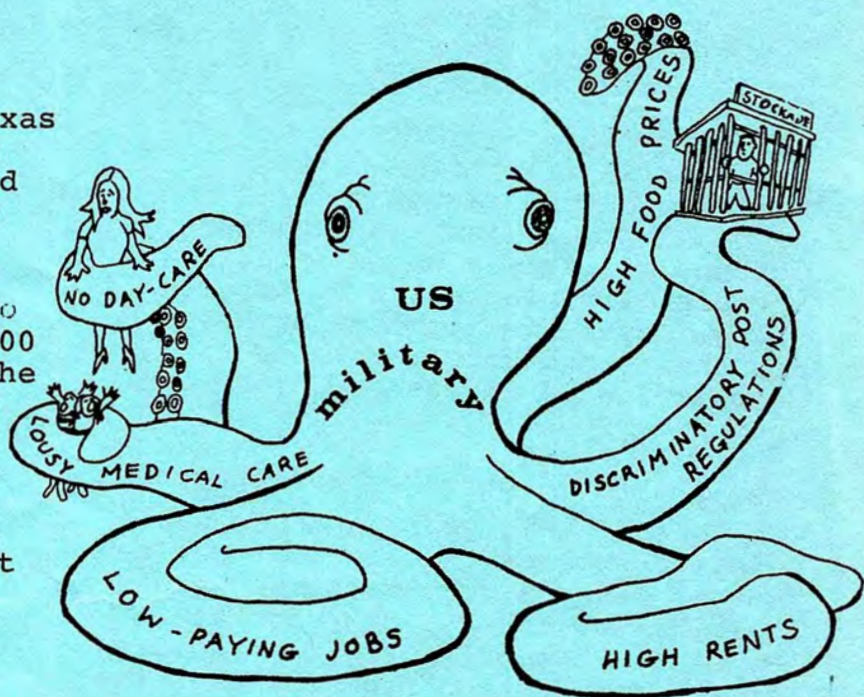
PROJECT REPORTS

Off the Runway is a coffeehouse, GI center, that has been opened in Holyoke, Mass. to serve the men and women of Westover Air Force Base. Their programs include legal counseling three nights a week, political films one night, and entertainment another. The center includes a legal center and reading room.

In Okinawa the GI movement is advancing. The two GI papers are now published twice monthly. A group of C.O.s is publishing a new paper called Conscientious Objector. Active duty GI's are meeting with students of Ryuku University to exchange information about their struggles. The Okinawans are planning a general strike on November 10th as a final desperate protest against the terms of the reversion agreement between Japan and the U.S. The GI's will be supporting the Okinawan people in their struggle.

THE SHOW

The FTA show came to Killeen, Texas (Ft. Hood) last month. Despite the fact that it was impossible to find a large auditorium or outside site for the show to perform, the show went on in the smaller quarters of the Oleo Strut coffeehouse. At a total of 5 performances, about 1,300 attended the show. The day after the last performance, the cast came to a large picnic to meet GI's and their families, and to talk about uniting to end the war and to win rights denied by the military. The show will be going to Asia to visit GI projects there during November and December.



GIs REBEL

On October 26 rebellion broke out in the stockade of Ft. Gordon, Georgia when special leave was refused for one of the black prisoners. A demonstration by 150 G.I. prisoners demanded that the leave be granted. The brass agreed to bargaining but, as that dragged, on angry prisoners burnt the stockade as riot patrol MPs were sent in with tear gas. Thirteen injuries were reported, but military officials have had no comment on the uprising to date.

DARMSTADT

After four months of persecution the Army brass has finally dropped charges against G.I.s in Darmstadt, Germany. The charges stemmed from an incident July 18 when racists broke into the canteen at Cambrai-Fritsch Caserne and began beating black G.I.s listening to soul music. The military police responded to a call by jailing 52 black G.I.s. Twenty-six were court martialed for the crime

the "crime" of being victims of an attack. The charges were willfully disobeying an order to disperse. Petitions were circulated by projects in Germany and increased publicity for the trial and militancy among G.I.s. Finally, responding to both these pressures, the brass dropped all charges last week.

HULLI

The Liberated Barracks is a G.I. project in the "Aloha State"-Hawaii. Hawaii is the Pacific Command Center for all branches of the military and, as such, a crucial location for G.I. organizing. There are eight major bases in the island with a total G.I. population in excess of 55,000 men and women.

The Liberated Barracks was started in June of this year, and has had limited success thus far. A "Coffee-house" was started in the heart of Waikiki-the tourist trap of the Pacific. Most military EMs, because of their isolation from the civilian community, flock to this area on their off-duty hours. The Liberated Barracks is a place where a G.I. can go and not worry about getting ripped off.

The Liberated Barracks newspaper, started in September, has a circulation at present of 4000 and is written by both G.I.s and civilian

the EM, but feared by the Brass. The Brass realizes that G.I.s working on a newspaper together is the first step toward uniting to fight their oppressor.

A cadre system has been developed on each base and some good on-base organizing has been going on. So far this has taken the form of a work slowdown at Hickam Air Force Base, a one day strike at Kaneahi Marine Base, and white and black G.I.s working together at Kaneahi to fight the overt racism on that base, among other actions.

Problems in Hawaii include the apathy invited by the climate and slow pace of the islands, the escapism practiced in the form of drug use, the harassment and repression of any organizer, the lack of good legal help, and, of course, the constant need for money.

There is a tremendous potential for organizing in Hawaii-given a little time and a lot of work it will be developed into a viable organization.

As we say in Hawaii-Aloha and Huli!

ME? I JUST
EXPERIMENT
WITH
CHEMICALS.



AND I JUST
CONTRACT
ORDERS.



I JUST TYPE
SPECIFICATIONS.



I JUST
RUN THE
ASSEMBLY
LINE.



AND I
JUST
DELIVER
FREIGHT.



I JUST
FLY A
PLANE.



AND I JUST
PULL A
SWITCH.



WHICH
KILLS
ME.



MILITARY LAW PANEL

Good news for GI's with military related legal problems was the formation of the Bay Area Law Panel by a group of lawyers here. The panel has lawyers from all over the area, Monterey, Santa Posa, Marin, the East Bay, and San Francisco. The primary objective of the panel is to provide the GI community with legal services to protect itself and organize itself effectively. All money paid for defense will be shared among the lawyers according to expenses incurred and hours spent. By this means they will subsidize those who don't have money and those that do and make sure that all get equal services. The project intends to work closely with all the military counselors and counseling groups in the area.

1894

Refusal to comply with orders which soldiers feel are against their conscience and against the best wishes of the people is not a new phenomena in American history. On July 5, 1894, during the great Pullman Railroad Strike of Eugene V. Debs' American Railway Union a group of officers met to draft a statement denouncing the strikebreaking role of the Army. Before they could publicize their views, they were arrested and held for court-martial. The court-martial was squelched, but the arrests had served their purpose of withholding the information from the press.

(Radicalism in America by
Sidney Lens)

FIREBASE PACE

Firebase Pace is located on the Cambodian border in a region famous for its rubber plantations. Artillery units are regularly ordered out on night patrols, extremely dangerous operations. Last month, the men of Company B, 1st. Battalion, 12th. Div., 1st. Air Cav., who were stationed at Firebase Pace, were ordered out on night patrol but refused. As one of the GI's put it, they refused because it "was completely senseless, senseless suicide". A petition was circulated among the men of Company B and was signed by 66 men. Drawn up as a letter to Senator Kennedy, it read as follows: "We want to draw the attention of the American public to the situation. We are almost forgotten here, getting shot at from Cambodia and shooting into it, and a patrol would have possibly gone into Cambodia."

After the incident, Company B was moved back to a less forward position and an investigation of the incident was begun. Little will come of the investigation. But what this incident points out is that the disaffection of US troops is so great that they have begun to refuse the illegal orders of their commanders and have begun to assume their responsibility for ending the war by refusing to fight in it. Few of these incidents reach the mass media but they are now regular occurrences in Vietnam. They will continue to occur in increasing numbers until all US forces are out of Southeast Asia and until the GI's are repatriated to their homeland.



SOS Activities

Support Our Soldiers participated in support work for the men of the Coral Sea and their SOS movement.

On October 25th, SOS staff participated in the rally for Heroes of War Resistance in Marin County.

On November 6th, a SOS contingent marched in the anti-war demonstration in San Francisco.

On November 11th, SOS set up an information table at a Berkeley food store and distributed information about the GI movement and collected some contributions.

You Can Help

If you would like to help out the GI movement, there are a lot of ways to do so. Much of the work SOS has done relies on the help of individuals who have a little time or a new idea--from dinners and meetings for folks to learn about the GI movement to garage sales to raise money.

We'd like very much to speak with groups and organizations that are interested in the GI movement or would like to help it out. If you belong to a group that might be interested, please call us and set up a time when we can talk with you.

Right now we also need help in finding a number of items that GI projects need. The project at Travis, and several other projects, need office machinery, books, records, kitchenware for their coffeehouse-to-be. A car is desperately needed for southern California.

Support Our Soldiers
PO Box 3061
Oakland, Cal. 94609
548-2934

What Is SOS

Support Our Soldiers is a support office for the GI movement. Along with sister offices in Cambridge and Los Angeles, we try to fill the needs for money, staff, educational materials, and communications that individual organizing projects cannot fulfill themselves. We publish SOS NEWS, our monthly newsletter, in order to bring the GI movement closer to its community of support. The projects depend on us, and we depend on you.

Announcements

"FTA - Songs of the GI Resistance" recorded by Barbara Dane in several GI Coffeehouses in the South is available from SOS for \$4.00.

Our "Join the Revolt" poster showing eight black and white Vietnam veterans posing with peace signs and fists is available from SOS for \$1.00.

"FTA" buttons, a symbol of the GI movement are available from SOS for .25.

GI Papers

Different Drummer
PO Box 329
Ft. Polk, La. 71459

The Brass Needle
PO Box 2109
Petersburg, Va.

The Chessman II
PO Box 5401
Burton, S.C. 29902

SOS NEWS

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DEFEND BILLY SMITH

Pvt. Billy Smith, a black GI from Watts, is being held at the Ft. Ord stockade in solitary confinement. He is charged with the murder of 2 lieutenants, 2 counts of attempted murder against a lieutenant and a sergeant, and 2 counts of assault against 2 MPs.

These charges stem from an alleged "fragging" at Bien Hoa Army Base in South Vietnam. Billy had been held in Long Binh jail for 3 months until he was shipped to Ft. Ord in May. His pre-trial hearing will probably be some time in Sept. and the court-martial might begin towards the end of the year.

Billy is being held as a prisoner of war, the war between the enlisted men and the officers. The officer corps sends GI's like Billy into the fields to kill the Vietnamese and be killed by them; to be the cannon fodder and instruments of a war of conquest. GI's who refuse to carry out the orders of gung-ho officers (like Lt. Calley) are jailed in barbaric and brutal stockades like Long Binh jail.

The brass has seen the rapid increase in GI dissent, the ever-growing numbers of AWOLs and deserters, and now the fragging of some of the most pro-war officers. They have singled out Billy Smith and plan to "make an example of him." His guilt or innocence of



the charges is irrelevant to the need they feel for an example to intimidate GI's. He is the first fragging case to be tried in the US, and already the Pentagon P.R. men have been using the media to prepare the public for his trial.

It is important that the GI movement come to the defense of GI's like Billy Smith, and expose the real issues behind the fragging stories that appear so frequently in the press. We must not let this case be used to isolate the GI movement.



SGT. NORMA

Sergeant Norma Welshams is a twenty year old WAF stationed at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif., scene of recent enlisted personnel rebellions. Norma is from Linden, Michigan. She's an ex-ray technician with an unblemished 2-year record in the Air Force. Recently, she received orders to the Phillipines. She is refusing to comply with the orders on the grounds that the US military illegally occupies foreign countries. She feels that

by accepting the orders, she would be taking part in a crime. It's her beleif that under the U.S. Constitution, she has the right to refuse to take part in any impportal and illegal act. Norma stated, "I do not beleive the U.S. military is in foreign countries to allow the inhabitants self-determination, but rather to occupy their land to maintain financial and military power."

On July 29, 1971, Norma officially refused to comply with her illegal orders. This is the first time a woman in the military has questioned the right of the government to send her to a country where the indigenious people do not want her. Her act grows out of a new awareness that is spreading through all the services.

The GI movement consists of men and women in the military who will no longer accept the exploitation and oppression that the US military perpetuates for GI's and civilians in many parts of the world.

VOLAR

VOLAR, or the Volunteer Army program, is the Pentagon's most recent attempt to deal with the growing effect of dissent in the military. Through programs such as on-base coffeehouses, relaxed haircut regulations, better living conditions in the barracks, beer in the mess-halls, and go-go girls in the service clubs, the Army hopes to remove the basis for the dissatisfaction the enlisted men feel with the Army. Also, by raising pay in the lower ranks to a level which can compete with civilian jobs, they hope to convince young men that the army is just a "good job" and get them to "volunteer."

FT. HOOD

Under severe pressure from national publicity, a federal law suit, and strong support from GI's, the Killeen City Attorney moved to drop all charges against the 8 GI's and 2 civilians who were arrested for picketing and boycotting Tyrrell's Jewelry store in Killeen.

The Ft. Hood United Front sees this move as a clear victory for the boycott. As the boycott continues, Tyrrells has been forced to reassess their position. Under pressure from the GI boycott, the "honor roll" has already been removed nationally from all Tyrrells stores, and it is possible that soon salesmen will no longer be hustling GI's on the streets.

The GI's in Killeen wish to thank everyone who participated in the letter writing campaign that helped with this victory.

On December 20, a rebellion broke out in the Ft. Hood stockade. The disturbance began when a prisoner in "C" compound, the segregated compound of the stockade, was denied medical attention. The man hadn't been allowed to eat for several days, and had been beaten by guards. As the man's condition worsened, other prisoners in the "C" compound began banging on the walls in hopes of drawing attention to the situation. They were ignored, and many of the men gave up and went to bed. Shortly afterwards, they were awakened abruptly to discover that the building was on fire. A rebellion had begun, and 100 MP's were brought in to quell what had become a major rebellion including "C", "D", and "E" compounds.

Afterwards, the brass tried to pass the rebellion off as a

racial disturbance, but it wasn't. According to those who participated, it was a rebellion against stockade conditions. Some of the grievances were: 85% of the prisoners are non-white, while less than 10% of the guards are non-white. The prisoners are constantly harrassed and goaded, black inmates are not allowed to exchange the clenched fist salute, racial slurs are used against the inmates, medical attention is totally inadequate, cell conditions are unsanitary, and solitary confinement is cruel punishment (5 x 8 cells, worse food, etc.)

Seven men were sent to Ft. Leavenworth, where 5 of them were eventually released. On July 5, Kelvin Harvey, a black man, and John Priest, a white man, were returned to the Ft. Hood stockade. They were placed in solitary confinement, and on July 15 Harvey was charged with "riot," "assaulting an officer" and Priest was charged with the same plus a third charge of "arson."

The Ft. Hood United Front and the Oleo Strut are building a defense movement to free these two imprisoned men. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

PROJECT REPORTS

SAN BERNARDINO, CAL.

The GI project at San Bernardino works with 2 Air Force bases, Norton and March, and a Marine base, 29 Palms. It has also done some work in the local community. A group of veterans and other civilians have set up a movement center in San Bernardino where airmen and marines can meet to talk and work on the local GI paper.

CON'T PAGE 5

These programs and others are being tried out on at least 6 bases across the country. For the most part, they are not working. Go-go girls and better food do not solve the basic problems within the Army: the lack of constitutional rights, racism, the war, and the domestic police role of the Army. However, VOLAR is having an effect on the GI movement--especially at bases where crash programs are being implemented. Life is easier, there is not as much petty harassment, and some efforts are being met with an attitude of, "Well, this is the best deal I've ever had in the Army--let's leave well enough alone."

If we leave well enough alone, and do not expose VOLAR for what it is, we may well end up with an Army of high-paid mercenaries whose choices in civilian life were so limited that they were forced to "volunteer." We will have an Army which still denies its members their basic rights, and an army which is still available to act as policeman for the world. The pentagon is spending millions of dollars on advertising campaigns to sell itself to young American men. We who work in and support the GI movement must respond with the necessary programs to combat this campaign.



ARCTIC ARSENAL

At Ft. Greeley, Alaska, charges leading to a general court martial were brought against Pvt. Ed Jurenas for "illegally" publishing and distributing a GI anti-war paper, the ARCTIC ARSENAL.

Underground GI newspapers are an important means of communication. They provide a place where GI's can express their dissatisfaction with the military and the war. They are often the only means of exposing what is going on at a military base and they provide, through their publicity an important weapon against the war and for the defense of dissident GI's.

The practice of harassing GI's who distribute such papers, and others who want to read them, is widespread. Your support is needed to stop the brass from illegally curtailing the rights of GI's.

Letters demanding that the charges be dropped and that GI's be allowed to exercise the same rights as civilians should be sent to Stanley Resor, Secty. of the Army, Dept. of the Army, Wash., D.C.



One of the major activities of the project now is a boycott of Tyrrell's Jewelers, launched in conjunction with the Killeen boycott and a number of boycotts in Southern Calif. GI's from a number of bases in the area have gotten together to form a roving picket and boycott group.

SAN DIEGO, CAL.

In San Diego, MDM, (Movement for a Democratic Military), has decided to change its name and to work more closely with the counseling service there, Pacific Counseling Service. Some of the folks from the project have set up an office in Ocean Beach, where a number of sailors live, and others work out of the PCS office in San Diego.

GI's from the project are also revamping the old MDM paper, Dare To Struggle, and changing its name. A new name hasn't been chosen yet.

The change in name of the project and paper stem from 2 problems. First, the brass at all the bases in the area have been fairly effective in spreading rumors about MDM: telling GI's it was a bunch of Weather-

men; telling white GI's it was an all-black group; saying GI's who visited its headquarters would be reported. These rumors frightened a number of GI's away from MDM, and made GI's wary of its members. At the same time, MDM had gotten a reputation among GI's of not having many GI's in it, and of being "too heavy" for GI's to relate to. For both of these reasons, it was decided to change names and begin work in the area over again.

Ft. McClellan, in Anniston, Alabama, is where Wac's receive basic and advanced training. This gives the base one of the highest concentrations of military women in the country. Recently, an organizing project was begun at McClellan specifically to work with WAC's. The project opened a movement center in Anniston where WAC's and women from the local community could meet and work together.

This month, WAC's working with the project published the first GI newspaper to be written by WAC's, called WHACK. The paper contains articles about conditions at the fort, sexual discrimination against WAC's, and suggestions of ways that WAC's can work together to combat their problems.



GI Papers

WHACK
P.O. Box 1595
Anniston, Ala. 36201

FORT POLK PUKE
P.O. BOX 66
Ft. Polk, La. 71459

OFF THE BRASS
Box 233
Dover, N.H.

SOS Activities

July 11, SOS did a benefit bake sale at Glide Memorial Church, at which we made \$75.

July 24, SOS sponsored a party at the Marin County home of Charlotte Krause. Activities at the party included a performance by the S.F. Mime Troupe Gorrilla Band, an art raffle of 4 prints by Michael Bowen, and a speech by Phillip Drath.

July 1, SOS sent speakers to a Unitarian group in Berkeley.

On August 7, SOS did a pancake breakfast in Live Oak Park, in conjunction with the Summer Crafts Fair. The breakfast brought in \$90 for the GI movement.

You Can Help

Many people have responded to requests for help in the past, and others call to ask what they can do to help the GI movement.

Some ways that you can help are--by asking speakers from SOS to speak to community groups that you belong to, by setting up sales, meetings or other activities to raise funds for the GI movement. We welcome suggestions for activities.

APPEAL FOR BLUE CHIP STAMPS

SOS needs much equipment for projects at military bases and for our own office. Mimeo machines, sound systems, etc., are vital tools. We can get some of this equipment with BLUE CHIP STAMPS. Please send books of stamps to our PO Box, Box 3061, Oakland, Cal. 94609.

What Is SOS

Support Our Soldiers is a support office for the GI movement. Along with the United States Servicemens Fund in Cambridge, Mass., we try to fill the needs for money, staff, educational materials, and communication that individual organizing projects cannot fulfill themselves. We publish SOS NEWS, our monthly newsletter, in order to bring the GI movement closer to its community of support. The projects depend on us, and we depend on you.

Walk Your Dog ?

Is there anything that you need done around the house or property? Yardwork? Clean out that old basement? Fall house scrubbing? Light construction? Hire SOS for your odd jobs, and the money you pay us will go to the GI movement. No job too little, no job too icky for the SOS odd job team. Phone 526-5329.

Finances

For the months of JUNE and JULY our finances were:

Income.....\$4,577

Expenditures

Grants to projects.....2,264
Project services.....355
Women's issue of Military Intelligence.....289

Fund raising expenses....601
Stipends (2 people for 2 months).....559
Office.....508
Total Expenditures \$4,577